

Message Text

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11
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /063 W
----- 090162

R 290800Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7214
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
COMIDEASTFOR

CONFIDENTIAL TANANARIVE 0790

CINCLANT AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, US, MA, FR
SUBJECT: RATSIRAKA'S POSITION IN MALAGASY POWER STRUCTURE

REF: A. TANANARIVE 0728; B. TANANARIVE 0776 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION CONVEYED TO ME BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROGER ON APRIL 25, COMMANDER DIDIER RATSIRAKA OPPOSED CURRENT TRIP OF MALAGASY FONMIN ZAKARIASY TO FRANCE, BUT LOST WHEN ISSUE CAME TO VOTE IN RULING MALAGASY MILITARY DIRECTORY. RATSIRAKA'S OPPOSITION PRESUMABLY DERIVED FROM FACT THAT ZAKARIASY CALL ON FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES AND CONVOCATION TO MEETING IN PARIS OF MALAGASY AMBASSADORS IN EUROPE AND WESTERN HEMISPHERE TEND UNDERMINE RATSIRAKA'S EFFORTS PORTRAY HIMSELF AS CHIEF MALAGASY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY.

2. ROGER ALSO TOLD ME RATSIRAKA SUMMONED HIM ON APRIL 16 FOR SECOND MEETING SINCE ROGER'S ARRIVAL IN FEB, APPARENTLY TO FURTHER CAMPAIGN DESIGNED SHOW HE IS IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICY. (ROGER COMMENTED THAT RATSIRAKA NOW HAS OFFICE IN BUILDING HOUSING MILITARY DIRECTORY, AND APPEARED MORE RELAXED THAN DURING FIRST VISIT.) MAIN THRUST OF MEETING, ACCORDING ROGER, WAS FOR RATSIRAKA TO INFORM HIM THAT

ZAKARIASY WOULD LATER RAISE WITH HIM THREAT OF STRIKE BY FRENCH TEACHERS IN MADAGASCAR, AND EXPRESS DESIRE IT NOT TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, ROGER TOLD ME THAT, WHEN HE SAW ZAKARIASY LATER SAME DAY, ZAKARIASY RAISED MAINLY "MILITARY DIRECTORY'S" DECISION ABOUT HIS VISIT TO PARIS AND HIS DESIRE CALL ON FRENCH FONMIN (SUBJECTS NOT MENTIONED BY RATSIKAKA), AND REFERRED ONLY IN PASSING TO POTENTIAL FRENCH TEACHER STRIKE. ZAKARIASY THUS DID NOT CONVEY IMPRESSION HE TAKING ORDERS FROM RATSIKAKA.

3. COMMENTS: ABOVE INFORMATION, PLUS GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO'S REMARK TO ME THAT RATSIKAKA IN "HOT WATER" WITHIN MILITARY DIRECTORY OVER EXTREMIST WORDING OF MESSAGES SENT TO VIET CONG AND SIHANOUK (REFTEL B), SEEM INDICATE THAT RATSIKAKA IS NOT IN ASCENDANT POSITION WITHIN DIRECTORY, EVEN ON MATTERS OF FOREIGN POLICY - AT LEAST NOT ON CONSISTENT BASIS. THUS, IT IS STILL OPEN TO US TO TRY INFLUENCE DIRECTORY ON MATTERS OF U.S. INTEREST AS THEY ARISE.
MENDENHALL

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TANANA00790
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS-1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504101/abbrzocp.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. TANANARIVE 0728; B. TANANARIVE 0776 (BOTH NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RATSIRAKA'S POSITION IN MALAGASY POWER STRUCTURE
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, US, MA, FR
To: STATE INFO PARIS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
COMIDEASTFOR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

